

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 02159 021055Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 W

----- 068311

R 011740Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1436

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 2159

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: PRESS SPECULATION RE SUCCESSION

1. POLITICAL LULL DURING SPAIN'S TRADITIONAL EASTER VACATIONS HAD WITNESSED A RESURGENCE OF PRESS ARTICLES AND SPECULATION DEVOTED TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND SUCCESSION.

2. OF GREATEST INTEREST WAS LENGTHY FEATURE ARTICLE IN MARCH 26 ISSUE OF PRESTIGIOUS WEEKLY MAGAZINE "ACTUALIDAD ECONOMICA" DEVOTED TO JUAN CARLOS. AN EDITORIAL AT BEGINNING OF ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT MONARCHY, AS EMBODIED BY JUAN CARLOS, IS KEY INSTIOIBION IN CURRENT SPANISH CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM AND THAT, BECUASE OF THIS FACT, THIS INSTITUTION SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO COMMENCE TO FUNCTION FULLY AND RESPONSIBLY NOW, DURING THE LIFETIME OF PERSON WHO ESTABLISHED THIS FORMULA AS MOST ADEQUATE TO CONSOLIDATE SPAIN'S FUTURE (I.E. FRANCO). MAGAZINE THUS CONCLUDES, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION BEING ASKED BY MAJORITY OF SPANIARDS AS TO WHEN PRINCE WILL ASSUME POWER, THAT ANSWER SHOULD BE "THE SOONER THE BETTER".

3. THIS ARTICLE OR SECTIONS THEREOF, HAS BEEN REPRINTED IN ALL MAJOR SPANISH NEWSPAPERS AND HAS ELICITED COMMENTARY IN SOME.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 02159 021055Z

PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS COLUMN OF NOTED COMMENTATOR LUIS

APOSTUA IN "YA" OF MARCH 30. APOSTUA MAKES REFERENCE TO CURRENT SPEIWLATION, AND THEN SUGGESTS SUCCESSION SHOULD BE STARTED NOW IN PHASED STEPS SO THAT IT DOES NOT OCCUR AT ONE TRAUMATIC POINT IN TIME. APOSTUA ACKNOWLEDGES, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A GRADUAL AND PHASED SUCCESSION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT INITIATIVE OR AT LEAST AGREEMENT OF GENERAL FRANCO AND HIS "PATROIOTIC COOPERATION." APOSTUA ALSO POINTS OUT TWO OTHER VITAL REQUIREMENTS MET SUCH A PHASED SUCCESSION OPERATION, WHOULD HAVE TO BE (A) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPAIN'S CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES, AS GUARANTEED BY THE ARMED FORCES, AND (B) THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A CONSENSUS AMONG REGIME POLITICAL FORCES IN SUPPORT OF THIS OPERATION (APOSTUA CITES AS PRECEDENT THE DESIGNATION IN 1969 OF JUAN CARLOS AS FRANCO'S SUCCESSOR).

4. COMMENT: THESE RECENT ARTICLES HAVE SPRUNG FROM AND REINFORCED RUMORS THAT FRANCO MAY BE CONSIDERING RELINQUISHING POWER AND DESIGNATING JUAN CARLOS AS KING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, AS IN PAST, ARTICLES APPEAR TO BE FOUNDED MORE ON A DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A PROCESS THROUGH SUCH PUBLICITY, RATHER THAN ON ANY INDICATIONS THAT FRANCO MAY BE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING SUCH A STEP. TO THE CONTRARY, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CABELLO DE ALBA, IN A WEEKEND INTERVIEW GRANTED TO A MALAGA NEWSPAPER, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO SPEED UP THE SUCCESSION PROCESS BECAUSE FRANCO IS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH. SIMILARLY, COLUMNIST EMILIO ROMERO, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT DAILY "ARRIBA" IN APRIL 1 ISSUE, QUOTED "CRYSTAL CLEAR SOURCE AT TOP" TO EFFECT THAT "THERE IS NO REASONABLE INDICATION OF POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESSION AT THIS TIME."
STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HOLIDAYS, MONARCHY, POLITICAL SITUATION, MAGAZINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID02159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750113-1113
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750494/aaaadhmy.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SPECULATION RE SUCCESSION
TAGS: PINT, SP, (CARLOS, JUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006